

Contact:

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## City of Urbana Receives \$8,212 Grant for Police Car

U.S. Representative Ike Skelton presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$8,212 representing a Community Facility Grant from USDA Rural Development to the City of Urbana during a dedication ceremony on July 10, 2004, held at the Urbana City Hall. The grant funds enabled the City to purchase a patrol car pre-fitted with emergency lights, two-way radios, and other equipment necessary to adequately protect the 407 residents of the City.



Police Chief, Steve

Kenall said, "The City of Urbana, Missouri, is very grateful to the USDA Rural Development program for receiving grant funding to purchase a 2001 patrol car. These are our tax dollars coming back to work for us thanks to the efforts of Vickie Umfleet and Leon Melvin of USDA Rural Development. This will allow the City to use funds toward their 5-year Community Policing Program instead of a patrol car. Several programs to be implemented are: Cops and Kids, Neighborhood Watch, establishing mutual aid and a working relationship with County and State law enforcement, aggressive business patrols, and more visibility during peak times that crimes are most prevalent. The old 1994 patrol car will be used for back up and transporting prisoners".

Kenall provided added information pertaining to the Cops and Kids program with a stated goal of promoting better understanding, trust, and cooperation within the community. Every first and third Saturday of the month, police officers, community volunteers, and the City administrators will be available from 9:00 a.m. to Noon at the City Hall to speak with kids and parents about safety issues. Books to read, coloring books, songs, and games will keep the children entertained. Another program to be established is a Child Identification Program affiliated with the National Coalition for the Lost and Missing National Children's Hotline.

Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "Providing grants to our rural communities ensures they have access to the public safety facilities needed to keep their residents safe. The forward-thinking plans being developed and adopted in Urbana aid in accomplishing our goal of reaching as many rural communities as possible with our programs to help them create an atmosphere that fosters security, growth, and improvement in the quality of life. I commend the City of Urbana for recognizing a need within their community and taking the necessary actions to see it through".

Branum further stated, "U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Ike Skelton have been, and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects. The agency's mission mirrors President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist, at 688 S State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield MO, 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to [vickie.umfleet@mo.usda.gov](mailto:vickie.umfleet@mo.usda.gov).

**“Committed to the future of rural communities.”**

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